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Number of Executive Officers for panchayats working in Cuddalore taluk.

* 693 *Q.*—SRI D. DASARATHAN (on behalf of Sri A. Ratnam) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Executive Officers for panchayats working in Cuddalore taluk, South Arcot district, and their terms of office; and

(*b*) how many of them belong to Harijan communities and Backward Classes?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYACHI :—" (*a*) There are three Executive Officers of panchayats in the Cuddalore taluk (South Arcot) who were appointed on 10th September, 31st October and 5th December 1953, respectively. They will remain in their stations normally for a period of three years.

" (*b*) None of them is a member of any Scheduled Caste or a member of any Backward Class recognized as such by this Government."

Repression of certain Harijans by the adhikari of Mezhathur village.

* 694 *Q.*—SRI E. T. KUNHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a memorandum, dated 29th August 1953, from Sri E. T. Kunhan, M.L.A., regarding the repression of seven Harijans (Arikath Manapadi Koran and others) by the adhikari of Mezhathur village; and

(*b*) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) The Government have not received any such memorandum. The Collector of Malabar reports, however, that on 5th September 1953 he received a representation, dated 29th August 1953, on the subject from the hon. Member.

" (*b*) Inquiries by the Collector revealed that the Adhikari of Mezhathur village assisted the police in making inquiries about a case of theft in the locality and that there was no harassment by him of Harijans as alleged in the representation."

SRI E. T. KUNHAN :—" സർ, ഈ മെമ്മോറാണ്ടത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് അന്വേഷണത്തിന് നവെമ്പർ 10-ാം തിയ്യതി പൊന്നാനി താസിൽദാർ നോട്ടീസു കൊടുക്കുകയും അതനുസരിച്ച് തോട്ടത്തിൽ ചാത്തൻ ചാത്തപ്പൻ താസിൽദാർ മുമ്പാകെ തെളിവു കൊടുക്കാൻ ഹാജരായപ്പോൾ പോലീസുകാർ അയാളെ സ്റ്റേഷനിൽ പിടിച്ചു കൊണ്ടുപോയി തെളിവുകൊടുക്കാൻ സാദ്ധ്യമല്ലാത്തനിലയിലാക്കുകയും ചെയ്തതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു നവെമ്പർ 11-ാം തിയ്യതി താസിൽദാർക്ക് ചാത്തപ്പൻ ഒരു ഹരജി കൊടുക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് വല്ല അന്വേഷണവും നടത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ ? പോലീസുകാർ ചാത്തനെ അറസ്റ്റ് ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടുപോയത് താസിൽദാരുടെ മുമ്പാകെ തെളിവു കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനെ തടയാനുള്ള ഒരു കൃത്രിമമായിരുന്നുവെന്നു ഗവമ്മേണ്ടിന്നു അറിയാമോ ? "

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" ചോദ്യം മനസ്സിലായില്ല."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR (translation) :—" Sir, is it a fact that when the Tahsildar, Ponnani, gave notice to certain parties to give evidence before him, one Thottathil Chathan who came to give evidence with regard to the allegations in the memorandum was arrested and placed under custody just to prevent him from giving evidence? Also, is it a fact that the next day, that is, on the 11th November, this fact was reported to the Police, and if so, has any action been taken with regard to that? " 8.30 a.m.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, with regard to this Thottathil Chathan, as a matter of fact a statement from him has been recorded by the Tahsildar and therefore there is no question of his having been prevented from giving evidence in this matter. The hon. Member is aware of the circumstances under which this incident took place, that is, a theft was committed there and action was taken on that. And the hon. Member seems to have intervened and that has given rise to all these complications."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Sir, have the Government any information that this Koran who was sent into hiding and reported as murdered has come out of the hiding? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Allegations were made by the hon. Member who put the original question and by some others that this Harijan had been murdered. But fortunately or unfortunately, he was found alive in a hospital and came out after a few months."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister said that the adhikari or the village munsif wanted to help the Police. Sir, may I know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government are aware that the said adhikari is a notorious official in suppressing the Harijans and so will the Hon. Minister make enquiries about the Harijan repression that is going on especially in that place? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, even Harijans are forbidden from transgressing the law and committing thefts. Simply because a person who commits a theft is a Harijan, he cannot be left free. The impression seems to be going about that, when an enquiry is made with reference to thefts and other offences, and when Harijans are involved, they are being oppressed."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister was pleased to say that Koran was found out in a hospital. It is therefore evident that Koran was assaulted by somebody and therefore he was in the hospital for treatment. May I know whether he was assaulted and is it not true that the assault was made by the adhikari himself? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, it was not with reference to any injury in his person that he was in the hospital. It was only with reference to some natural disease he was suffering from that he was in the hospital. There was

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therefore no assault. As a matter of fact, he got himself admitted into the hospital about two or three months after the alleged incident."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, so far as the theft is concerned, I do not know whether it has taken place or not. Even admitting that the theft did take place, has the village munsif the power to beat a person, tying him hand and foot and oppress him in an inhuman manner? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, the hon. Member should know that every village munsif helps the police when the police go there for the purpose of investigation. The allegations that he was bound hand and foot has been found to be not true. As to whether the theft was committed or not, I am sure the hon. Member who put the original question should be aware of that, as he comes from that locality."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Sir, if the authorities came to the conclusion that the allegations were not true, may I know whether they have taken steps to prosecute the persons who made the allegations for having given a false complaint and for having made a false report? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, I shall consider this very useful suggestion. Because, it was not the first instance where allegations of murder were made and seriously made and later on it was found that such persons were alive."

SRI C. H. KANARAN :—" Sir, this Thottathil Chathan was arrested because the adhikari wanted to save himself by preventing him from giving any evidence. Will Government enquire into this matter of his arrest made in order to prevent him from giving evidence? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I do not think it would be of any use. This matter has been enquired into and it is not true that he was arrested to prevent him from giving evidence. A statement has been recorded from him with regard to this incident."

Cultivable poramboke lands in Vriddhachalam taluk.

* 695 *Q.*—

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member Sri Kattimuthu is not in his place. The answer to the question will be printed in the proceedings."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" I put the question on his behalf, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Are you authorized by him? "

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Yes, Sir."